







Procedure file

Basic information		
NLE - Non-legislative enactments	2018/0122M(NLE)	Procedure completed
EU/Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement		
Accompanying procedure 2018/0122(NLE)		
Subject 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations		
Geographical area Japan		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Foreign Affairs	 PETERLE Alojz	09/10/2018
Council of the European Union		Shadow rapporteur	
		 MARTIN David	
		 BELDER Bas	
		 VAUTMANS Hilde	
		 SCHOLZ Helmut	
		 BUCHNER Klaus	
		 CASTALDO Fabio Massimo	

Key events			
15/11/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/11/2018	Vote in committee		
23/11/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0385/2018	Summary
11/12/2018	Debate in Parliament		
12/12/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/12/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0507/2018	Summary
12/12/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2018/0122M(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Motion for a resolution under consent procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/8/14789

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report	PE629.442	23/10/2018	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE630.401	08/11/2018	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A8-0385/2018	23/11/2018	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T8-0507/2018	12/12/2018	EP	Summary

EU/Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the report by Alojz PETERLE (EPP, SI) containing a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part.

Members welcomed the conclusion of the draft Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA), which provides a legally binding framework, strengthens EU-Japan bilateral relations and increases cooperation in more than 40 areas, such as foreign policy and security issues, emergency relief operations, humanitarian aid, economic matters, research, education, food safety, agricultural policy, space technology, culture and sport, as well as on global challenges that require global coordination such as climate change, migration, cyberthreats, public health, cross-border crime, peace-building operations, crisis and disaster management and the fight against terrorism.

Members reaffirmed the shared commitment to respect for human rights, democracy, fundamental freedoms, good governance and the rule of law, and common values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They called on the Union to enter into a dialogue with the Japanese government with a view to a moratorium on capital punishment and its possible abolition. They also highlighted the need for increased cooperation on women's rights.

Members called for, among other things:

- the expansion of EU-Japan bilateral cooperation and multilateral cooperation with South Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States and China with a view to achieving and maintaining peace and stability in the region, peaceful coexistence on the Korean peninsula and the full, irreversible and verifiable denuclearisation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
- the development of synergies between Japans Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy and EU initiatives, including the EU Investment Plan and the extended EU Trans-European Transport Networks, in order to promote global cooperation in connectivity;
- the strengthening of educational and cultural dialogue, university mobility programmes under Erasmus+, and public diplomacy with a view to promoting mutual understanding and cultural diversity;
- intensifying cooperation in the field of sustainable energy, for example by developing low-emission forms of transport;
- the suspension of whaling for scientific purposes and the lifting of Japan's reservations to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- further exchange of good practices regarding illegal logging;
- the exchange of information and cooperation to end cosmetics testing on animals in Japan.

Members called for the swift ratification of the provisional agreement by the parliaments of the EU Member States and for its thorough implementation in all sectors.

EU/Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement

The European Parliament adopted by 474 votes to 156, with 40 abstentions, a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part.

Recalling that the EU and Japan have been strategic partners since 2003, Members welcomed the conclusion of the draft Strategic Partnership Agreement, which provides a binding legal framework, strengthens EU-Japan bilateral relations and cooperation in more than 40 areas, as well as to address global issues requiring global cooperation such as climate change, migration, cyber threats, public health, transnational crime, peacebuilding operations, crisis and disaster management and the fight against terrorism.

Parliament welcomed the reference to a parliamentary dimension in the agreement, which aims to strengthen the partnership through dialogue and cooperation on political issues, foreign and security policy and other types of sectoral cooperation.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms

Members reaffirmed the shared commitment to respect for human rights, democracy, fundamental freedoms, good governance and the rule of law, and common values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They called on the Union to enter into a dialogue with the Japanese government with a view to a moratorium on capital punishment and its possible abolition. They also highlighted the need for increased cooperation on women's rights.

International and regional relations

While welcoming the EU's new strategy to improve connectivity with Asia, Parliament called for, inter alia:

- the expansion of EU-Japan bilateral cooperation and multilateral cooperation with South Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States and China with a view to achieving and maintaining peace and stability in the region, peaceful coexistence on the Korean peninsula and the full, irreversible and verifiable denuclearisation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
- the development of synergies between Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy and EU initiatives, including the EU Investment Plan and the extended EU Trans-European Transport Networks, in order to promote global cooperation in connectivity;
- the strengthening of educational and cultural dialogue, university mobility programmes under Erasmus+, and public diplomacy with a view to promoting mutual understanding and cultural diversity;
- intensifying cooperation in the field of sustainable energy, for example by developing low-emission forms of transport;
- the suspension of whaling for scientific purposes and the lifting of Japan's reservations to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- further exchange of good practices regarding illegal logging;
- the exchange of information and cooperation to end cosmetics testing on animals in Japan.

Sectoral cooperation

Taking note of the current low levels of people-to-people exchanges and of the linguistic barriers, Parliament suggested further investment to enhance citizen-to-citizen interaction, educational and cultural dialogue, academic mobility programmes under Erasmus+, and public diplomacy to promote mutual understanding and cultural diversity.

It also called for:

- Japan's ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement in 2016, and intensified cooperation in the field of sustainable energy, e.g. in developing low-emission forms of transport;
- the suspension of whaling for scientific purposes and the lifting of Japan's reservations to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- further exchange of good practices regarding illegal logging;
- the exchange of information and cooperation to end cosmetics testing on animals in Japan.

Members called for the swift ratification of the provisional agreement by the parliaments of the EU Member States and for its thorough implementation in all sectors.